Criteria of safe custody of telephones

956. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria is implemented by the MTNL to keep existing telephone connections in safe custody;

(b) whether it is a fact that the MTNL is alloting existing telephone number in safe custody to other party without any reasons and intimations;

(c) whether MTNL has allotted telephone number 3794046 to other party which is kept in safe custody; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the criteria for keeping a telephone in safe custody in MTNL is based on subscriber's request; depending upon the period of safe custody—(i) for safe custody period upto six months, full rental is being charged and telephone number as well as cable pair are kept reserved (ii) for safe custody period beyond six months 40% of the rental is being charged and telephone number and cable pair are not kept reserved.

However, full rental will be charged for the entire period of safe custody if the telephone number and the cable pair are required to be kept reserved.

(b) In case of a telephone under safe custody for a period beyond six months, where there is no specific request by the party to keep the telephone number & cable pair reserved on full rentals; the telephone number can be allotted to other party.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reasons in detail are given below:

(i) Telephone No. 3794046 was permanently closed on 11.10.1999 on subscriber's request for All India shift to Rajkot [Gujarat].

(ii) During the processing period for obtaining various clearance before the issuance of "Surrender Certificate" by MTNL, the party

changed his mind and requested to restore the telepohne (not physically) and keep in safe custody with restrospective effect from 11.10.1999.

(iii) Telephone No. 3794046 was kept under safe custody for six months from 11.10.1999 to 10.04.2000 and thereafter allotted to the other party on 26.06.2000.

Opening of new post offices in Orissa

957. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of new post offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a target of opening of 8 Branch Post Offices in Other Area, 2 Branch Post Offices in Tribal and 2 Sub-Post Offices in Other Area in Orissa during the current financial year. Opening of new post offices is subject to sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

Effect on DTS due to corporatization

958. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government desire to corporatize the Department of Telecom Services by 1st October, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it will adversely effect unprofitable investment like Rural Telecom Services and village Telephone because the profit of DTS would be heavily reduced due to payment of corporate tax licence fee and dividend to share holders etc;

(c) whether it would also entail higher salary to staff as well as perks; and